

Los Angeles County EPR Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Ordinance Objective, Program Goals, and TAG Purpose

On August 11, 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a Motion authored by Mayor Antonovich and Supervisor Solis, directing “the Interim Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the County’s Sustainability Council and the Pharmaceutical Working Group, to:

1. Draft an ordinance which requires manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps to develop product stewardship take-back programs to collect and dispose of unused/unwanted pharmaceutical and sharps waste from County residents;
2. Initiate stakeholder engagement with the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders to solicit feedback on the ordinance; communicate the need to provide safe, convenient, and sustainably financed take-back options for consumers to properly dispose of pharmaceutical and sharps waste; and generate awareness about the collection program that will be created; and
3. Return to the Board within six months with the recommended Ordinance for consideration.”

The Board also approved a friendly amendment to the motion by Supervisor Knabe, encouraging approval of the motion and clarifying that “the stakeholder process occur first before the ordinance is drafted.”

Objective

Ensure all County residents have access to safe, convenient, and sustainably financed collection and take-back options for properly disposing unwanted pharmaceutical and sharps waste.

Program Goals

- Promote extended producer responsibility principles which pertain to the proper management of products at the end of their useful life. These principles include but are not limited to:
 - Ensuring the proper collection and disposal of waste, including potentially harmful products
 - Creating a mechanism for shared logistical and financial responsibility for safe drug and sharp disposal programs
 - Ensuring convenience for the public, including take-back options at no cost to the resident at the end of life of the product
 - Ensuring effective outreach and education for residents and other stakeholders
- Ensure all elements of the program are consistent with the Drug Enforcement Administration Disposal Act as stipulated within the framework of the Controlled Substances Act, and all other applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Purpose

- Engage in a constructive dialogue regarding potential components of a draft EPR ordinance.
- Provide input and feedback on best practices of EPR programs for unwanted pharmaceuticals and sharps waste from around the world, including within California.